

Frequently Asked Questions

February 1, 2000

Who is the Maricopa Association of Governments?

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is a regional agency made up of the Valley's communities working together to ensure a better quality of life. MAG is a Council of Governments that serves the metropolitan Phoenix area and the many diverse cities, towns and Indian communities within Maricopa County.

Our agency is charged with developing regional policies and plans in areas such as transportation, air quality, water quality, solid waste and human services. We are also the distributing agency for millions of dollars in federal funds for many important transportation, environmental and human services programs.

What is the Regional Off-Street System Plan?

The Regional Off-Street System Plan, or ROSS plan, will show a region-wide system of off-street pathways for travel by bicyclists and pedestrians. These paved pathways and unpaved trails would be located in areas such as canal banks, linear parkways and flood control channels throughout Maricopa County. The plan will help provide a way for people to travel to local destinations by walking or bicycling. The goal of the ROSS plan is to help make bicycling and walking viable options for daily travel trips, leading to an improvement in air quality and relieving congestion.

The ROSS plan will identify issues associated with multi-use pathways, identify corridors which could be used for pathways, and develop project priorities and design standards. Creating the plan and its priorities will help provide support for federal transportation funding requests.

When Will the Study Begin, and What Is the Timeline?

A regional kick-off meeting occurred on January 18, 2000 -- the first Regional Trails Forum. The next Regional Trails Forum is scheduled for March, 2000. The study will be completed in less than one year.

Who Will Be Involved?

Development of the plan will be overseen by members of two MAG committees: the Regional Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group. Also, a stakeholders group will help guide the development of the plan. Stakeholders invited to participate will include members of city staff interested in transportation, land use and open space, representatives from bicycling advocacy groups and neighborhood associations, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, and the Salt River Project. If you'd like to participate on the stakeholders group, please send an e-mail to ross@rbf.com.

How Can I Learn More?

You can learn more about this project by calling Dawn M. Coomer at the MAG office, (602) 254-6300, or sending e-mail to ross@rbf.com. You can be placed on a mailing list to receive more information about the project. Information on the plan will be available on our Web site at www.mag.maricopa.gov as the plan develops.

Any comments regarding issues, opportunities, constraints, goals, objectives or information sources for this project are welcomed and can be e-mailed to ross@rbf.com